

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 4:30 pm in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Duane Pierce, Jerry Polus, Louise Dahlke, Jim Haskins, Joan Brusky, Joe Aulik, Ed Koslowski

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:30 pm.

2. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Joan Brusky to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. Approve/Modify Minutes of July 16, 2019.

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Ed Koslowski to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Invocation.

Jim Haskins gave the invocation at this time.

5. Budget Status Financial Report for June 2019.

Chair Erickson referred to the financial report in the agenda packet and said the budget is in good shape, but he noted there will be a few expenses coming in from the Fair.

Motion made by Jerry Polus, seconded by Duane Pierce to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. Update re: Honor Rewards Program.

Erickson informed he had a brief discussion with Register of Deeds Cheryl Berken regarding the Honor Rewards program. He provided Berken with Jeff Mirkes's phone number and said they will be getting in touch with him soon to send information on the program to business owners in an effort to increase the number of participating businesses. Erickson also felt it may be useful to have some sort of form letter sent out to area business associations for the various municipalities. CVSO Joe Aulik added that veterans can use their driver's license as identification at participating businesses if the license has the veteran identifier on it.

7. Discussion re: 2019 Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.

Erickson said the day was excellent. It started off slowly but that was likely due to the weather and the fact that people were in church, but about the time church was done, attendance really picked up. Ed Koslowski said 178 door prize tickets were handed out, but noted that there were people who said they did not need a ticket as they would not still be there at the time of the drawings. If everyone brought a guest, Koslowski said the attendance was likely close to 375. Louise Dahlke said this year's attendance was up from last year. Aulik asked if the tent size this year was the same as in the past and Dahlke informed it was. If a larger tent is desired, Dahlke said the Fair Board would likely ask for reimbursement. She added that she requested the sides be available prior to the event and was happy to see that the sides that were put up had windows in them, making

the tent brighter inside. The cookies and lemonade were also discussed and it was noted that they ran out of cups so there was a time when the lemonade was not being served. Brusky said this year the cookies seemed to last longer than in the past and people were very appreciative for them. There were more cookies this year than in the past and it was decided that the amount that was available this year was a good amount.

Aulik said the Air Force Band appreciated the ride to the office so they could change and they were very appreciative of all the other services provided to them. He noted he was able to provide the Band with some Packer items he was able to obtain and they seemed to like that. The PA system was also discussed and it was noted that in the past the band's PA system was used, but this year, with the different band, that was not available. Aulik was able to find something to use so it worked out well, but in the future this is something that needs to be taken into consideration. Aulik continued that he has heard some good feedback from the vendors. There were also 51 forms filled out for the recognition certificates.

Koslowski informed a few uniforms were donated by Major Henry Reuden which were incorporated in the display in the main building. One was a dress green jacket from the Army and today Koslowski went through the patch and ribbons that were on the jacket. The other uniform was desert BDUs. Dahlke said Reuden had been in the Army for 29 years. He is a single person and has no one to pass these uniforms on to so he donated them. Koslowski also said he recently got a donation of a bomber jacket from an old classmate. Brusky thanked Koslowski for the display and said it was very nice. Dahlke said people seem to like the display and the labels that Koslowski puts on with explanations of items.

Erickson said he did not hear any complaints about the event being held on Sunday and noted that a lot of people brought kids. Duane Pierce said he did have one person ask why it was switched to Sunday and Pierce explained that the change was done at the request of the Fair. The person then went to the Fair office and was advised that the change was made mainly due to parking issues. Dahlke noted she had also received two phone calls expressing displeasure that the event had been moved to Sunday and the main reason was that the callers would not be able to see the rodeo. Dahlke said she really wants people to know that Sunday is more of a family-friendly day and they want to make it more affordable for the younger vets who want to bring their children to the Fair. She noted that the number of younger vets at the event has really increased since the event was switched from Saturday to Sunday. Brusky added that people seemed to really like having the music from 2:00 – 3:00 pm instead of after the ceremony.

8. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Aulik, Brusky, Corry, Dahlke, Haskins, Koslowski, Metoxen, Pierce, Polus).

-Erickson informed that on Sunday, August 25, there will be three Huey helicopters from Vietnam landing in Sheboygan as part of a larger event.

-Aulik talked about some of the initiative they are currently doing in their office. They are sending letters to area nursing homes and assisted living facilities to reach out to them for the VA pension program and other benefits and compensation. He also noted that all Post Offices are now issuing flags to funeral homes and this is working out well. They are also getting labels for all newly discharged veterans and all individuals in the county receiving VA benefits and they will be sending letters to them along with a brochure for Bravo Company, which is the organization initiated by Congressman Gallagher to provide sponsors for newly discharged veterans to help them navigate through the process. Aulik also noted that he attended the Retired Men's breakfast earlier in the day and talked to them about VA benefits. He concluded by saying there will be a booyah bash this Saturday, August 24, at the Green Bay Vets Center from 11:00 – 3:00 with free booyah, free hamburgers and hot dogs. There is also a VA Town Hall meeting tomorrow from 12:30 – 2:30 at Legion Post 11 on Irwin Avenue.

-Brusky did not have anything to report.

-Dahlke did not have anything to report.

-Haskins said he recently watched the Barrett-Jackson auction and they sold the last C7 Corvette which will be coming off the assembly line for \$2.7 million dollars. All proceeds will go to wounded veterans to build smart homes. Haskins also informed he recently attended several events for veterans including Veterans Appreciation Day at Meadowbrook Church which included guest speaker Reverend Rufus Parker, Retired Commander

Sergeant Major who was in all the recent wars. The ceremony was followed by a meal for veterans and fireworks. Haskins also recently attended Veterans Appreciation Day at the Green Bay Booyah and the Green Bay Blizzard's Military Appreciation Day where the veterans were treated very well.

-Koslowski talked about the newspaper article for Veterans Day. He had a list of the businesses participating in the Honor Rewards program to be included in the article and was looking for volunteers to help contact businesses who are not currently in the Honor Rewards program. Brusky informed that she can help make calls to see what offers they may have so that information can be used in the article. Once the article is complete, it will be forwarded to Brown County Deputy Executive Jeff Flynt who will take care of getting it published. Erickson mentioned the the new newspaper in the area, *The Press*, and said the article should be forwarded to them as well.

-Pierce informed that on September 20, Vietnam Veterans Chapter 224 will be doing their annual POW/MIA candlelight ceremony at the POW flag on Jefferson Street in front of the courthouse at 7:00 pm. He also talked about The Wall That Heals event which will be held in Manitowoc from September 12 – 15. The Wall is being brought in by Vietnam Veterans Chapter 731 and there will be a welcome ceremony on September 12 at 6:30 pm, a candlelight vigil on September 13 at 7:30 pm, the major ceremony will be on September 14 at 1:00 pm and the closing ceremony will be September 15 at 2:00 pm. The Wall will be accessible 24 hours a day during the period it will be in Manitowoc.

-Polus informed he enjoyed the Fair, however, he did not enjoy the band. He would prefer to see the group we had in the past. Pierce agreed and said the veterans we are reaching out to seem to prefer more of a rock and roll type band, instead of the symphony type music the Air Force Band played. Aulik said he heard good comments on the band and noted there will always be good and bad comments. Polus said there were a number of good vendors in the tent and the day seemed to go very well.

9. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.

Koslowski added that Proko Wall Funeral Home will be doing their recognition of veterans, first responders, law enforcement, etc. at 11:00 am on September 7 at Josten Park in Bellevue. Pierce added that on that same day, September 7, there will be a car show for veterans at the Gateway Bar in Crivitz

10. Adjourn.

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:11 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Administrative Specialist